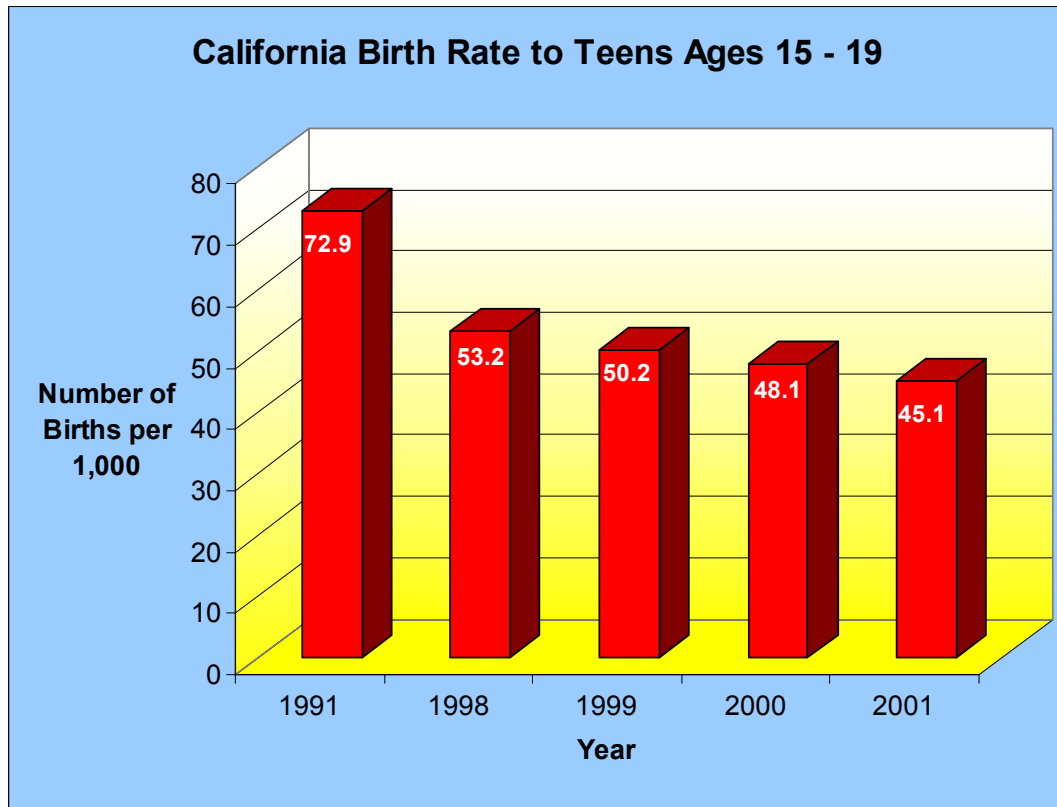


Teen Pregnancy Prevention

What is the challenge in California?

- A baby is born to a teen in California every 10 minutes.ⁱ
- In 2001, more than 53,000 babies were born to teenage mothers in California.ⁱ
- Teenage pregnancy crosses all racial, cultural and socio-economic lines. In 2001, 67 percent of all teen births in California were to Hispanics, 18 percent to Caucasians, 9 percent to African Americans, 4 percent to Asians/Pacific Islanders and 1 percent to American Indians/Aleuts and Eskimos.ⁱ



Source: California Department of Health Services, Birth Rates 2001.

What is the challenge in the United States?

- In the United States, four out of 10 girls get pregnant at least once before age 20. The U.S. has the highest teen pregnancy and birth rate than any other industrialized country. In fact, the birth rate in every state is higher than that of the United Kingdom.ⁱⁱ
- Nearly 500,000 teens give birth each year.ⁱⁱ

How sexually active are teens?

- About half of all high school students have had sex at least once.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Between 1990 and 1997, the proportion of high school students who were sexually experienced declined from 54 percent to 48 percent.ⁱⁱⁱ

How does it affect the family, community and society?

- Teen births cost American taxpayers approximately \$7 billion in state and federal money each year in public assistance services.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Each family that begins with a birth to a teenager is expected to cost the California taxpayer an average of \$27,000 a year.^{iv}
- Nearly 80 percent of all unmarried teen mothers receive public assistance services within five years of the birth of their first child. In fact, some 55 percent of all mothers on public assistance were teenagers at the time their first child was born.ⁱⁱⁱ

What are the consequences of teen pregnancy?

- Twenty-five percent of all new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases each year occur in people ages 13 to 21. Half are among people under age 25. A majority of these infections are transmitted sexually.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Two out of three teen moms never finish high school.ⁱⁱ

How are children affected?

- Children born to teenage mothers are more likely to suffer severe health problems and are less likely to receive proper health care.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Children born to teen mothers are more likely to drop out of high school. They have lower grade point averages, poor school attendance and are less likely to go to college.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The sons of teen mothers are more likely to end up in jail.ⁱⁱⁱ

Are teens using contraception?

- Seventy-five percent of teens use some method of contraception (usually a condom) the first time they have sex.ⁱⁱ
- A sexually active teen that doesn't use contraception has a 90 percent chance of pregnancy within one year.ⁱⁱ

What do teens think about abstinence?

- Eight out of 10 teenage girls who have had sex wish they hadn't.ⁱⁱ
- Six out of ten boys wish they had waited until they were older to have sex.ⁱⁱ
- Two out of three boys have had sex by age 18.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ California Department of Health Services, Birth Rates, 2001.

ⁱⁱ National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2000.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, When Kids Have Sex: Issues and Trends, A KIDS COUNT Report, 2000.

^{iv} The Public Health Institute, No Time for Complacency, 2003.